

REVIEW OF INTERNATIONALIST THEATRE'S PRODUCTION

OF 'MISS JULIE' by RB MARRIOTT in THE STAGE (UK),

20th JANUARY 1984

" I HAVE NEVER SEEN A BETTER PRODUCTION OF STRINDBERG'S
'MISS JULIE' THAN THE INTERNATIONALIST THEATRE STAGING"

INTERNATIONALIST Miss Julie

THE
STAGE

I HAVE not seen a better production of Strindberg's "Miss Julie" than the Internationalist Theatre staging at the Sir Richard Steele pub, Belsize Park, directed by Alkis Kritikos and translated by Michael Meyer.

It is wild and raw, steeped in emotion and dramatic drive, like the play itself, and reveals the aristocratic Julie and the servant Jean in all their vivid colouring and depth of corruption, ambition and longing for a better and richer life than they can ever know. Further, it shows the sexual battle which Strindberg finds so vital in human relationships, and the power and devious workings of class which in his time wrought great damage, and do so today.

The attractive Miss Julie flaunts her charms, and draws into her destructive web the good-looking Jean, perhaps, without her, content to marry his little Christine and steadily continue in domestic service. But passion finds power in deep sources; visions of another kind of life seem to open; the Midsummer Eve when the drama takes place may give way to a welcome dawn. Strindberg speaks truth, however, and dawn contains death.

Kritikos in his direction realises the great work with power and imagination, in fine detail with a rich sense of character. It is played, in a very simple yet potent setting by David Burrows, with force and insight, tenderness and ferocity by Angelique Rockas as Julie and Garry Cooper as Jean, with Sarah Collier excellent as the sturdy Christine.

B. Marriott

REVIEW OF ANGELIQUE ROCKAS'S PERFORMANCE OF MISS JULIE IN THE
INTERNATIONALIST THEATRE PRODUCTION , LONDON JANUARY 1984

BY JO STANLEY, 'MORNING STAR'

"EVERY MAJOR HUMAN CONFLICT, AND AT GREAT DEPTH, IS EXPLORED IN THIS IMPORTANT DRAMA: CLASS, SEX, RELIGION, AMBITION . AND MS ROCKAS'S PERFORMANCE ADDS STILL FURTHER TO THE PROFUNDITY AND POWER OF IT WITH HER MOST ORIGINAL PERFORMANCE"

Profound conflict

Miss Julie (Sir Richard Steele). STRINDBERG wrote this classic drama very much not in sympathy with Miss Julie, the headstrong daughter of a 19th-century women's rights campaigner and a Scandinavian landowner.

He loathed what he called such "man-hating half-women." And in past productions, the title role has been played by infuriatingly unreal women who have done little to suggest the huge dimensions of the character which Angelique Rockas does here.

It was a daring bit of self-casting (Ms Rockas is the leading light in the Internationalist Theatre which presented this play). And part of the fascination of the evening was wondering if this husky-voiced, power-

ful performer could bring it off.

She did; superbly. And so did Garry Cooper as Jean, the valet.

After they have foolishly ended up making love, his servility, his self-conscious and careful demeanour are swept away. He becomes a snarling, raging, almost fascist master who gains his power from Miss Julie's despair at the implications of what she has done.

So she rages at Jean and tells him she longs to kill him bloodily, satisfyingly. She re-asserts all her old power.

Every major human conflict, and at great depth, is explored in this important drama: class, sex, religion, ambition. And Ms. Rockas' performance adds still further to the profundity and power of it with her most original performance.

Jo Stanley